

Aqua-Tech Environmental, Inc.

Greer, Spartanburg County, South Carolina

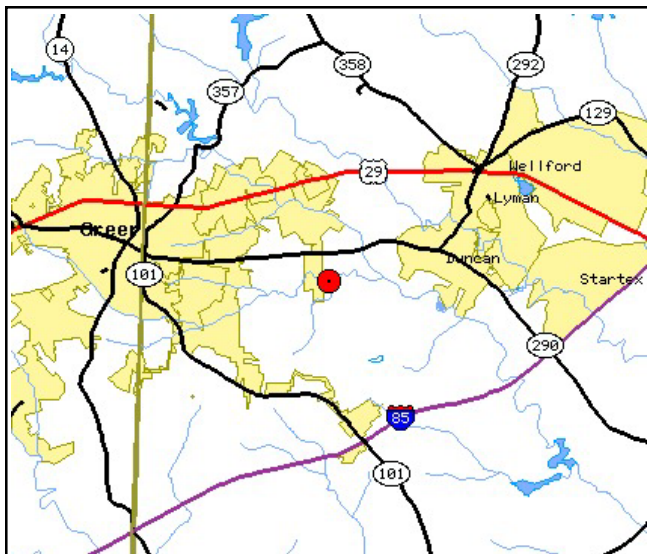


Community Fact Sheet #1

August 2000

Aqua-Tech Environmental, Inc. is on Robinson Road near its intersection with State Highway 290. The site is bordered by railroad tracks to the north, Robinson Road to the east, and undeveloped land to the south and west. A fence surrounds the site.

Area residents used a portion of the property as a dump as early as the 1940s. From 1963 until 1968, the City of Greer operated a municipal landfill on part of the property. Beginning in 1976, Groce Laboratories, Inc. operated a hazardous waste treatment, recycling, storage, and disposal facility at the site. In 1987, the facility was sold and continued operations under the name Aqua-Tech Environmental, Inc. It stopped operating in 1991. The site was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) in December 1994. The NPL is a list of hazardous waste sites that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers most in need of an environmental cleanup.



Site Location Map

Why is a public health assessment being conducted?

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's (SCDHEC) Division of Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) prepares a public health assessment for every site on or proposed for the NPL.

What is a public health assessment?

A public health assessment evaluates potential health risks related to a specific site. In preparing a public health assessment, SCDHEC-HHE staff review available environmental data, draw conclusions about public health hazards, and make recommendations to protect the public's health.

What do the environmental data show?

A number of environmental studies took place at the Aqua-Tech Site from 1981 to 1993. Only the data from these studies are included in the draft health assessment. However, EPA has been conducting additional sampling at the site since 1998. A final report of these results is expected in Fall 2000.

Many volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been found in on-site groundwater monitoring wells. Most of the VOCs were well above their EPA maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for drinking water.

Arsenic, lead, thallium, and two polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were found above their screening levels in on-site soil.

One VOC was found in on-site air samples above its screening value in 1991.

Two VOCs were found in surface water from the on-site drainage ditch above South Carolina's Water Quality Criteria. Arsenic and lead were found in sediments from the drainage ditch and sediment basin.

Off-site surface water and sediment samples were collected from Maple Creek. A few chemicals were found at low levels. Upstream and downstream levels were very similar.

Samples were collected from 10 off-site private wells from 1990 to 1993. The wells closest to the site were sampled at least four times. A few metals and one VOC were found inconsistently and at levels well below their MCLs in a few wells.

What conclusions does the draft public health assessment draw?

The conclusions and recommendations made in the draft public health assessment are based on data collected at the site from 1981 to 1993. As more data become available, some conclusions and recommendations may no longer apply or may need to be changed.

The site currently poses no apparent health hazard to the community.

When operating, the site may have posed a health hazard to site workers.

We have no information to indicate that anyone is drinking water contaminated with chemicals from the site. However, exposures could occur in the future if contaminated groundwater moves off site and affects nearby private wells.

Since access to the site is limited by a fence, exposure to chemicals found in on-site soil, surface water, and sediments is unlikely.

It does not appear that the site has adversely affected Maple Creek. However, a general water quality survey could provide information about the health of the creek. At this time, exposure to Maple Creek near the site should not result in any adverse health effects.

Exposure to site-related chemicals in air is unlikely to occur at levels of concern.

What recommendations does the draft public health assessment make?

Conduct a private well survey to find out how many residents still use private wells.

Monitor any downgradient wells found in the survey.

Conduct a general water quality survey of Maple Creek to find out if water quality has been affected by the site.

Ensure that site access continues to be restricted.

What happens next?

The Aqua-Tech Environmental, Inc. draft public health assessment is now available for review and comment by the community. The public comment period is intended to give community members a chance to review the draft

document and provide comments prior to completion. All comments must be submitted in writing before September 30, 2000.

Comments should be addressed to:

Eric W. Melaro, M.S.

SCDHEC

Division of Health Hazard Evaluation

1751 Calhoun Street

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Once the comment period ends, SCDHEC will review and consider all comments that are received. The public health assessment will then be completed.

How can I get a copy of the draft assessment?

Copies of the draft public health assessment are available at these locations:

Spartanburg County Public Library

Middle Tyger Branch

170 Groce Road

Lyman, South Carolina 29365

SCDHEC

Appalachia III EQC District Office

975-C North Church Street

Spartanburg, South Carolina 29303

SCDHEC

Division of Health Hazard Evaluation

1751 Calhoun Street

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

You may also call us, toll-free, at (888) 849-7241 to request a copy of the draft public health assessment.

How can I get more information?

For additional information on the Aqua-Tech Environmental, Inc. site, you may contact one of the offices listed below.

Local:

SCDHEC - Appalachia III Environmental Quality Control District Office - (864) 596-3800. This office can answer your questions or refer you to other areas, as needed.

State:

SCDHEC - Division of Health Hazard Evaluation - (888) 849-7241. This division prepares public health assessments, addresses health concerns, and provides health education.

Federal:

EPA - Waste Management Division - (800) 435-9233 x28793. This division can answer your questions about the site and future activities.